

Youth Resource Connections

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Headlines

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Publishes Proposal to Secure Overtime for 1.3 million Low Wage Workers. The Employment Standards Administration at DOL has proposed changes to existing legislation to increase the wages of millions of lower-income workers and reduce the number of low-wage salaried workers currently being denied overtime pay. The Department invites comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. For further information about the Fair Labor Standards Act and the proposed regulations, visit: <http://www.wagehour.dol.gov>.

Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) Foundation Offers Grants for Community Development and Children and Families. PSEG and energy service company headquartered in Newark is offering two new grants in 2003. One grant of up to \$100,000 will be awarded in each of the following categories: (1) children and families; and (2) community and economic development. Community-based nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be a private, nonprofit organization that is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code For complete program guidelines visit: <http://www.pseg.com/community/caring.html>. **Deadline: April 14.**

U.S. Conference of Mayors Joins Harvard to Study Youth Participation in the Political Process. Harvard college students will participate in a research study of nine cities that include Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Detroit, Long Beach, Miami, Nashville, and Oakland. A student will work with the mayor's office in each city to survey local youth programs. A report of the best practices in youth engagement will be released in October 2003. To learn more about this initiative contact the U S Conference of Mayors at: http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/news/press_releases/documents/civic_031803.asp.

College Students Help Out-of-School Youth Realize Academic Goals. Students from Northwestern University participated in an "Alternative Spring Break Project" to help out-of-school youth in South Florida. Under the guidance of the Heaven Sent Consultants, Inc., college students tutored youth from the South Florida's Workforce Youth Opportunity Center. For more information contact Maire Bertot at 305-594-7615 ext. 274.

Program Spotlight

Birmingham Youth Opportunity Grant (YOG) receives award for partnership with the Camp Fire USA Organization. The Campfire USA of Central Alabama recognized the Birmingham YOG for their partnership efforts and dedication to at-risk youth in city. Camp Fire works in partnership with the YOG providing opportunities for youth to participate in summer work experience projects. For more information contact DeForrest Brown, Project Director, at 205-497-2248.

Louisiana WIA Youth Challenge Program Demonstrates Extraordinary Success. The National Guard Youth Challenge program, operated in Minden, Pineville and Carville, has graduated more than 5,000 young people from its residential program. The program focuses on education and life skills preparation. For more information contact Ms. Anne Brent at 225-319-4801.

WORKplus program in Broome County, New York provides youth skills to succeed in the workplace. Workplus funded by the Broome-Tioga Works local workforce investment area provides basic skills, career planning and life skills to help youth succeed in the workplace. Recently the program graduated youth from the first phase of its training program. More than half of the graduates have already secured jobs. For more information contact Mr. Patrick Doyle at 607-778-2109.

Funding Opportunities

The City of Phoenix Announces Youth Diversity Grants Initiative. The City of Phoenix has established Diversity Grants to help schools create and promote diversity programs. The goal of this initiative is to create and support existing activities that promote cultural awareness, understanding and the value of diversity among youth. Funding will support activities that directly involve students. To be eligible for a grant award, schools must demonstrate that they have involved youth in developing and implementing the proposal. To receive more information, call 602-495-0314. **Application Deadline: April 11.**

Burrough's Wellcome Fund (BWF) supports Student Science Enrichment Program. Burrough's Wellcome fund provides support to after-school projects that offer hands-on scientific activities and exploration for middle public schools and non-profit groups in North Carolina. The program goal is to improve student competencies and their enthusiasm for science, and to interest them in pursuing careers in research. Three year grants are available. Additional information may be obtained by contacting BWF staff at (919) 991-5100. **Deadline April 10.**

Mockingbird Foundation, Inc. (MFI) Offers Funding for Children's Music Education Programs. MFI plans to fund projects that encourage and foster creative expression in musical forms. The project primarily targets youth age 18 and under who have low skill levels, income or education. Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status and public school are eligible to apply. For complete funding guidelines, see the Mockingbird foundation website. Visit: <http://www.mockingbirdfoundation.org/funding/>
Deadline: August 1, letter of inquiry.

Metropolitan Opera Guild seeks applications for Creating Original Opera. The Metropolitan Opera Guild seeks applicants for a summer training program to provide school teachers with information, tools, and experience to form a student production company. Participants are eligible for graduate and professional development credit. Participating schools pay for transportation and a \$225 fee. The program is held at Princeton University Conservatory and Columbus State University. For more information contact Juliet Berman at 212-769-7026.
Deadline varies by region.

Publications/Reports/Resources

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) Commissions Four New Policy Papers.

One of the papers, "Focus on the Future: Building ONE System for Youth Development and Opportunity," addresses the need for youth to obtain an education beyond high school and identifies strategies for improving outcomes for youth in the 21st century. To read a summary of the forum, visit: <http://www.aypf.org>.

Carnegie Corporation Introduces a Quarterly Newsletter featuring a report by Jobs for the Future (JFF). The report, "From Large to Small: Reinventing the Urban High School," offers strategies for personalizing large urban schools by helping them become small, learning communities where students and teachers are both engaged in meaningful and challenging work. To download the report, visit: <http://www.jff.org/jff/kc/library/0156>

New National League of Cities Project to Help Cities Link Education and Afterschool Opportunities.

Cities can apply by May 9 for technical assistance. To obtain a copy of the Request for Proposal, go to: http://www.nlc.org/nlc_org/site/programs/institute_for_youth_education_and_families/index.cfm or contact Dylan deKervor at 202-626-3073; email: fellow1@nlc.org

National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) Develops Criteria and Self-Assessment Tool for Alternative Education.

The tool consists of detailed criteria identified as common to effective education programs and schools by a national group of educators, practitioners, and policy makers and researchers. The self-assessment tool is available on-line. Visit NYEC's website at <http://www.nyec.org>.

New Report Profiles Exemplary Workforce and Youth Development Initiatives Targeting Youth Offenders.

The National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) and the Annie E. Casey Foundation released a report profiling break-the-mold juvenile justice initiatives that are reducing crime and making communities safer by facilitating youths' economic self-sufficiency. To obtain a copy of the report, visit the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at http://www.aecf.org/publications/data/workforce_youth_dev.pdf or call 410-223-2890.

Youth Survival Guide Book. Edward DeJesus has released "*Makin It*"- *The Hip-Hop Guide to True Survival*. This guide uses the voice and power of hip-hop to inspire and support youth along with concrete facts and intelligent analysis about the importance of education, work and non-violence. For more information visit: <http://www.ydrf.com> or call 303-216-2050, extension 203.

Calendar of Events

April 7- 8, Philadelphia, PA. International Conference of Universities, Schools, and Communities. Contact 215-898-0240.

April 8. Deadline to apply for 2003 PEPNet Recognition. Contact: National Youth Employment Coalition, 202-659-1064 or download the application at: <http://www.nyec.org/pepnet/apply.html>.

April 11-13. National Youth Service Day. For more information, visit: <http://www.ysa.org/nysd/index.cfm>.

April 23-26, Minneapolis, MN. National Youth Leadership Conference. Contact 800-366-6952.

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May 5-7, Los Angeles, CA. Child Welfare League of America Conference. Contact 617-769-4003.

May 7. Nationwide. National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. For more information visit: <http://www.teenpregnancy.org>.

May 26-28, Garden Grove, CA. The 5th Annual International Fatherhood Conference. For more information contact <http://www.npcl.org>.

June 4-5. Washington, D.C. National Research Conference. Contact Crystal Woodard at 202-693-3162.

July 9-13. Denver, Colorado. YO National Basketball tournament. Contact: Jeff Stawicki at 303-964-2493.

Youth Resource Connections is a technical assistance update published bi-weekly by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Office of Youth Opportunities (OYO), Office of Youth Services (OYS).

Youth Resource Connections provides important announcements and information for state and local workforce investment boards, youth councils, youth service providers, Youth Opportunity Grant sites, partners, and others interested in youth development.

We welcome your input. Please let us know how these updates might be improved to better serve your needs. If you would like to contribute information, post an inquiry, or suggest topics to cover, please contact Anne Stom (Astom@doleta.gov; 202-693-3377 or Susan Rosenblum (srosenblum@doleta.gov; 202-693-3597).

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